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KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

Pinacoteca Civica “Melozzo degli Ambrogi”

Palazzo del Merenda, Corso della Repubblica, 72, 47121 Forlì (FC)

Form compiled by: Davide Domenici

Introduction

The collection of the Pinacoteca Civica “Melozzo degli Ambrogi” includes three Indigenous American artefacts: a Mesoamerican terracotta head and two keros, Andean wooden beakers of the colonial period (eighteenth century). The three objects come from the collection of Monsignor Terzo Natalini.

Cultural Areas (tags)

Central and Southern Andes

Collection name	Monsignor Terzo Natalini Collection
Collector	Natalini, Terzo (1925-1999)
Cultural areas	Mesoamerica; Central and Southern Andes
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Preclassic culture (Mexico) Colonial Inka (Peru)
Description of the	The collection consists of three objects.

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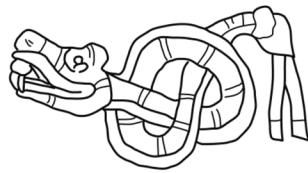
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collection	<p>Inv. Coll. Natalini 35: head of a terracotta figurine (4.5 × 4 × 3.5 cm) of Mesoamerican provenance, with headdress and ear ornaments. The circular eyes suggest a dating to the Preclassic period (c. 800 BC–AD 300). The lack of diagnostic elements makes a more precise cultural attribution difficult.</p> <p>Inv. Coll. Natalini 36a: kero, or wooden beaker (h. 13.5 cm; rim diam. 7.8 cm; foot diam. 5.5 cm) with polychrome decoration, of Andean provenance. The beaker has the shape of a cup on a foot, with polychrome decoration in two registers. The upper – the main – register is occupied by a warrior armed with spear and shield, facing an aríbalo and a kero with floral motifs, and by a female figure facing a parrot. The lower register is filled with a frieze of running camelids. Polychrome dots occupy the background of both registers. The shape suggests a dating to the eighteenth century.</p> <p>Coll. Natalini 36b: kero, or wooden beaker (h. 13.4 cm; max. diam. 5.5 cm) with polychrome decoration, of Andean provenance. The beaker has the typical flaring shape, with polychrome decoration in three horizontal bands. The upper band alternates panels with stepped motifs, human faces and quartered circles; the central band presents lozenge motifs, while the lower band is occupied by floral motifs. The decoration, very similar to that of two examples preserved in the Museo Inka of the Universidad del Cuzco, suggests a dating to the mid-</p>
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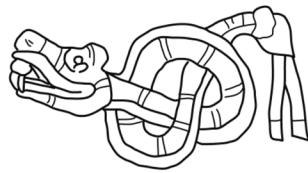
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	eighteenth century.
History of the collection	The objects were collected by Monsignor Terzo Natalini during his numerous travels in Latin America and were later donated to the Pinacoteca.
Online database	PatER
Web page	PatER https://bbcc.regione.emilia-romagna.it/pater/search.do?value%28OGTF%29=Culture+extraeuropee+-+America&page=1&re=load
Bibliography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Prati, L., ed. 2001. <i>La collezione Terzo Natalini. Opere donate da Mons. Terzo Natalini alla Pinacoteca Civica di Forlì</i>. Forlì: Filograf Litografia. (con schede su oggetti americani di Maurizio Biordi alle pagg. 80-81).

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